

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAM-01 IO-13 /079 W
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R 162324Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3177

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 0946

EO 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, AO, ZA

SUBJECT: FOOTNOTES ON ZAMBIAN RECOGNITION OF MPLA GOVERNMENT
OF ANGOLA

REF: LUSAKA 0923, LUSAKA 0932

1. IN BRIEF TELECON APRIL 15 WITH PRESIDENT'S ADVISOR MARK CHONA ON OTHER MATTERS, HE CORRECTED FOR THE RECORD FACT HE ALONE TRAVELED TO LUANDA FOR FINAL STROKE WHICH GAVE MPLA MUCH COVETED ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT RECOGNITION. PRES KAUNDA DID NOT RPT NOT TRAVEL TO LUANDA. SAID ANGOLANS "VISIBLY RELIEVED" AND WOULD REQUIRE ALL THE SYMPATHY AND ASSISTANCE THEY CAN GET (READ "FROM THE WEST", THE WAY CHONA PUT IT). HE ALSO REPORTED ANGOLANS TALKING WITH SOUTH AFRICAN ABOUT PROTECTION FOR CUNENE DAM BUT HE CLAIMED NOT TO KNOW WHERE THESE TALKS OCCURING.

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2. CHONA INDICATED ZAMBIANS MADE SOME ACCOMMODATIONS ON

THEIR EARLIER CONDITIONS FOR MPLA RECOGNITION, "TAKING A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT APPROACH" BY DROPPING THEIR INSISTENCE THAT CUBAN PRESENCE FIRST BE WITHDRAWN, AND ACCEPTING AT FACE VALUE NETO'S EARLY APRIL STATEMENT RE REINTEGRATION OF FORMER OPPONENTS INTO GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION. CHONA SAID RULING MPLA "REALLY MEANS IT". CHONK CLAIMED THAT TRUE NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AS IT WILL BE WORKED OUT WOULD IN TIME BRING ABOUT GRADUAL WITHDRAWAL OF CUBAN PRESENCE. MOREOVER, HE CONTENTED-PRESUMABLY ON BASIS OF WHAT ANGOLANS TOLD HIM - THERE HAD ALWAYS BEEN THE MPLA INTENTION TO EASE THE CUBANS OUT. BRINING IN OTHER POLITICAL FACTIONS INTO THE ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT WILL ACCELERATE THAT PROCESS, HE SAID.

4. CHONA ALSO SEEMS TO HAVE GOTTEN FROM THE ANGOLANS THE FEELING THAT IF SOUTH AFRICA CAN THROUGH ITS DISCUSSIONS NOW GOING ON WITH THE ANGOLANS PROVE IT IS INDEED SEEKING GOOD RELATIONS AND ITS INTENTIONS ARE NOT HARMFUL, SOUTH AFRICAN PRESENCE TO PROTECT THE CUNENE DAM COULD BE ACCEPTED. THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT EACH SIDE MUST DEMONSTRATE BY ITS ACTIONS A FEELING OF MUTUAL CONFIDENCE.

5. COMMENT. WE ASSUME IT IMPORTANT TO KAUNDA PERSONALLY, AS WELL AS TO HIS PARTY AND GOVERNMENT WHICH HAVE ALWAYS TENDED TO BE MORE FAVORABLY DISPOSED TOWARD MPLA RECOGNITION THAN ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT HIMSELF, THAT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA PROCEED IN LINE WITH WHAT MAJORITY OF OAU STATES HAVE DONE. THIS STEPIAY EVEN BE OF CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO KAUNDA BEFORE HIS STATE VISIT TO MACHEL IN MOZAMBIQUE APRIL 20*6, AS IT ELIMINATES ONE POINT OF STRAIN IN THEIR RELATIONS. CHONA'S COMMENTS TO US ABOUT NETO'S INTENTIONS TOWAGD OTHER POLITICAL FACTIONS MAY CONTAIN MEASURE OF WISHFUL THINKING AS WELL AS SELF-JUSTIFICATION FOR ZAMBIANS' DECISION EASE THEIR EARLIER CONDITIONS FOR RECOGNITION OF PRA.
WILKOWSKI

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